

Medical Direction Committee Minutes
Office of EMS
July 20, 2005
10:30 AM

Members Present:

Peter Bruzzo, D.O.
George Lindbeck, M.D.
Cheryl Haas, M.D.
Asher Brand, M.D.
Bethany Cummings, D.O.
Dave Garth, M.D.
Mark Franke, M.D.
Arthur Ernst, M.D.
James Dudley, M.D.
Stewart Martin, M.D.
Kimberly Mitchell, M.D.
Sabina Braitwaite, M.D.

Members Absent:

Staff:

Warren Short
Chad Blosser
Tom Nevetral
Steve Puckett
Michael Berg
Scott Winston

Others:

Scott Weir, M.D.
Heidi Hooker
Kester Dingus
Lisa A. Clapp
George Brown
Deborah T. Akers
Ruddy Rose

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
1. WELCOME	Stewart Martin, M.D. called the meeting to order at 10:35 A.M.	
2. INTRODUCTIONS	All of the attendees were asked to please introduce themselves.	
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	The minutes from the April 20, 2005 meeting were approved.	Minutes Approved
4. Fairfax City CPAP Program Update	Captain George Brown presented a power point presentation overview of the Fairfax City Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Program over a six month period from January through June 2005. Two ambulances were chosen to participate in the study utilizing a Caradyne Whisperflow™ Variable High Flow Generator. An advantage of this device is that the medic can deliver in-line nebulization of medications. The cost per unit including mask and set-up was about \$900.00. Of the fourteen patients who received CPAP two patients had no improvement and twelve had significant improvement. All cases in Fairfax receive Q.A. It was also noted that Virginia Beach also utilizes CPAP. (Presentation attached).	
5. EMT-B Distance Education Proposal from CSEMS	There is an attempt to organize a consortium to negotiate with Shepherd (WV) Community Training Center through the Eastern West Virginia Community College to provide the didactic portion of the EMT-B program for rural Highland, Bath, Pendleton (WV) and Pocahontas (WV) counties. The program was outlined at the Professional Development Committee meeting last week and the proposal was withdrawn by the organizer until more work could be outlined. This will come back before the committees prior to the Fall of 2006.	
6. Proposed Accreditation Standards for EMT-Basic and Enhanced Programs	Warren Short presented a power point presentation outlining discussion points and benefits for accrediting EMT-Basic and EMT-Enhanced Programs in the near future. The discussion points would be utilized by the committees involved in outlining the criteria as well as the benefits of accrediting	

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	<p>these programs. The proposal would require dual regulations to allow accredited programs while continuing the present methodology for EMT-Basic and EMT-Enhanced Programs. Dr. Braithwaite advised that the rural communities would be the ones most affected and they were the ones who should have input into the requirements and outcomes of the proposed program.</p> <p>The Medical Direction Committee was asked to review the documents and submit comments to Tom Nevetral at Thomas.Nevetral@vdh.virginia.gov outlining any concerns and recommendations for the proposal. Kim Mitchell, M.D. asked that a hospital representative be added to the suggested list for the focus groups who should be involved in the program.</p> <p>Committee discussion centered on the issue of the rural EMT programs wanting to be able to continue their individual EMT programs at their present locations. There was also a question raised about the possibility of allowing the EMT-Basic program via distance education which allow for more flexibility for the student.</p>	
7. ALS Training Funds Update	Chad Blosser gave an ALS Training Funds Status Report update dated April 18, 2005. He also reported that eight new Sim Man manikins have been purchased for new Intermediate accredited sites.	
8. NREMT Computer Based Testing (CBT)	Tom Nevetral announced that Gregg Margolis, Associate Director of the NREMT attended the ALS-Coordinator Meeting in Roanoke on July 15 and gave an overview to over eighty ALS-Coordinators who attended the meeting. There was very little concern expressed over the NREMT proposal for CBT that will be initiated beginning January 1, 2007.	
10. OLD BUSINESS		
	a. The committee reviewed the WMD Nerve Agent Protocol and there was some concern over the use of Solu-Medrol versus other acceptable corticosteroids. The committee decided to set aside this project until the next meeting to allow more time to review the current literature.	
	b. The National Scope of Practice 2.0 Draft was discussed and it was the consensus of those who attended the National Scope of Practice meeting that the group was not going to included the present Intermediate '99 level as a national certification level. Eight states had adopted the Intermediate '99 curriculum and Texas, Virginia and Maryland went on record in support to maintaining the Intermediate '99 certification level. However those in attendance concluded that the group had already made up its mind.	
	c. The <i>Virginia Common EMS Protocol</i> project was discussed and Kim Mitchell, M.D. and James Dudley, M.D. advised that the Peninsulas EMS Council like the concept. Both Northern VA EMS Council and the Tidewater EMS Council had some hesitation about the project. It was requested to place the	

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	Regional EMS Protocols on the Office of EMS web page and to get a copy of the regional protocols to the Medical Direction Committee.	
11. NEW BUSINESS		
a.	<p>Discussion surrounded the Office of EMS, Regulations & Compliance; Program Representative (paramedic) issued a letter, based on a patient complaint, indicating improper patient care. The agency OMD disagrees with the finding and feels that medical review on quality assurance activity concerning medical care should involve the agency OMD and that at no time should the Office issue such an opinion without a physician providing such an opinion. The concern expressed was having a non-physician evaluating patient care that outweighs the opinion of an agency's operational medical director during an Office of EMS investigation; particularly when the agency OMD is ultimately and solely responsible for the medical care being delivered. The committee was in uniform agreement that investigations involving medical care must be reviewed by an appropriate licensed physician.</p> <p>Discussion concerning the motion by Bethany Cummings, D.O. included the possibility of conflict of interest when an agency's operational medical director was included as an investigative tool when the agency itself was being investigated. However, the agency OMD is still the responsible party for medical control of the agency. The State Medical Director must be available to provide feedback when such areas of concern are identified. However concern was expressed that improper patient care directed from the Office must involve medical consult. Keeping in mind the role of the agency's OMD who is responsible for the quality and delivery of patient care for the agency, the OMD should be included in any correspondence with an agency's officer.</p>	<p>Motion by Bethany Cummings, D.O. that the medical direction committee recommends in the interest of quality review, in cases investigated by the Office of EMS involving medical care; issues are to be reported to the agency medical director during the administrative review... seconded by George Lindbeck, M.D. Motion...passed.</p> <p>Motion by Peter Bruzzo, M.D. requesting the Office of EMS to include in writing, a policy for administration review for these and all EMS issues... seconded by Mark Franke, M.D. Motion...passed.</p>
b.	Scott Winston advised that the Governor has made his new appointments to the Governors EMS Advisory Board as follows: Jennie L. Collins, Gary A. Dalton, Edward B. Bish, Jr., Kevin L. Dillard, James R. Dudley, Linda G. Johnson, Kimberly J. Mitchell, M.D., Donald E. Taylor, and Carl F. Wentzel, III, M.D.	
c.	Bethany Cummings, D.O. advised that the Rural and Frontier Emergency Medical Services Agenda for the Future has been released. It was requested to have the document placed on the Office of EMS web page, if possible.	
d.	Stewart Martin, M.D. was thanked by the committee for his work in chairing the committee as his term on the Governor's Advisory Board had expired.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None	
Adjournment	NEXT MEETING October 19, 2005 at American Heart Association, Board Room, 10:30 A.M.	